

March 3, 2015

To whom it may concern,

Northeastern Connecticut has many small libraries who serve their communities with budgets that would be sorely impacted by the elimination of funding for Connecticard, Connecticut Library Consortium and Grants to Public Libraries that is being proposed in the Governor's budget. The public library is an indispensable part of our community, and they are especially needed by our citizens in hard economic times. Connecticard reimbursements and the yearly Public Library Grant help these smaller libraries offer more materials and services to their citizens. As a combination school and public library, we rely heavily on the use of inter-library loan to get books and other materials from other libraries that our town patrons and students need. We simply do not have enough money in the budget to buy all the books and resources to meet everyone's needs. Additionally, CLC helps local libraries with training, material sharing, expertise, and especially discounts. Because of the bargaining power of CLC the budget resources of the libraries go much further. For example, Baker and Taylor (a book and media vendor) offers 46.6% off trade books to CT libraries because of the multi-year contract that CLC has negotiated for them. Without these discounts the basic service of books, films, DVDs, free Internet, story times and programs for children and teens, lifelong learning programs for adults, free tax preparation, reference help and more would be difficult to provide to the citizens of Northeastern Connecticut.

If the provisions in Governor's Bill No. 942, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION that repeal these programs are enacted, new legislation would be required before these programs could ever be funded again. The public library is the most democratic institution in our society; please do not take this funding away from your public libraries!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Deborah Sharpe
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